

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN LASZLO OCSKAY

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2003*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously Captain Laszlo Ocskay, a courageous and righteous individual whose actions saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Nazi occupation of Budapest, Hungary in 1944–1945. I am not the first to recognize Captain Ocskay's outstanding humanitarian service on this floor, and I proudly add my voice to those who have paid tribute to this remarkable man's life. Much of the recognition of Captain's Ocskay's historic contributions has fortunately come to light in recent years thanks to the research and writings of Dan Danieli of Riverdale, New York.

Captain Laszlo Ocskay served in the Austro-Hungarian army as an officer during World War I, during which he suffered wounds to his leg that left him ineligible for active service in the post-war Hungarian army. Captain Ocskay remained on inactive reserve until 1944 when he requested to be reactivated to the 101/359 Labor Service Battalion. Despite his injuries, Captain Ocskay was appointed to the post of Commanding Officer of Labor Service Battalion, assigned the task of collecting and warehousing clothes.

At great risk to his personal safety, Captain Ocskay sought and then used this position to protect and sustain more than two thousand men, women and children who were threatened by the Hungarian Arrow-Cross's increasing violence against Jews in Budapest. Against official policy, Captain Ocskay allowed many escapees from other forced labor units, survivors of anti-Jewish campaigns, family members of the men in his labor service, and others facing persecution to join the ranks of the 101/359 Battalion.

Through his connections with sympathetic German military officials and his partnership with Section-T of the International Red Cross, Captain Ocskay was able to successfully shield these individuals from the increasing persecution of Jewish residents as well as provide them with food, medicine and other necessities. The Section-T was in fact quite dependent on Captain Ocskay, who opened his private home to be used as their headquarters, as well as a sanctuary for a small number of Jews in hiding. Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued tens of thousands of Jews during this same period, is also known to have operated from Captain Ocskay's home and was hidden at his house shortly before being captured by the Soviet troops. Captain Ocskay persevered in his extraordinary efforts to protect the lives and safety of those in his labor camp until the Soviet liberation of the Labor Camps.

Following the end of World War II, Captain Ocskay was arrested numerous times by the communists who alleged that he was an

American spy. Captain Ocskay's position in an American oil company's Budapest office and his ties with Wallenberg and others who the Soviets had disappeared may have made him suspect. After repeated arrests and releases, he escaped to Austria and then later moved to the United States to live with his son. Captain Ocskay died in 1966 in Kingston, New York, where he is buried. He is survived by his son, George Ocskay, his daughter-in-law, Helen Ocskay, and his granddaughter, Elisabeth.

Captain Ocskay's outstanding humanitarian contributions were largely unrecognized during his lifetime. He was however posthumously awarded a gold medal by the President of Hungary, and the city of Budapest has honored him with a permanent public memorial. Certainly, Captain Ocskay's bravery and resolve in the face of the inhuman and brutal Holocaust perpetuated against European Jews stands as an important reminder of the difference that principled and moral individuals can make against even the most egregious manifestations of human hatred and bigotry.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the Jewish Federation of Ulster County this April 27, 2003 in honoring the distinguished legacy of Captain Ocskay and in paying tribute to his surviving family members.

## HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Solomon Schechter Day School in Worcester, Massachusetts and to congratulate the teachers, students, and parents of the school on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Solomon Schechter Day School was founded in 1977 when a group of local parents explored the idea of establishing a Jewish day school for the Worcester community. They shared a common vision: educate their students intellectually and spiritually and, in doing so, inspire them to assume leadership roles within secular and Jewish worlds.

Under the leadership of Principal Malka Levine, the school opened its doors on September 6, 1978 with 21 students in kindergarten through Grade 3. By 1990 the school enrolled students through Grade 8, completing their original goal to serve students from K to 8. Today enrollment has grown to 116 students who come from a wide variety of families in Worcester County representing diverse religious and socio-economic backgrounds. Graduates have gone on to further their education at some of our finest institutions and serve their community as educators, teachers, physicians, scientists, and many other fields.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Solomon Schechter Day School on 25 years of providing an exceptional education for

Worcester County's children and for instilling in them the importance of serving their community. I am confident that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in my admiration for the school and its accomplishments.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2003*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on April 7, 2003, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1055, the "Dr. Roswell N. Beck Post Office Building" Designation Act (rollcall vote 109), H. Res. 127, Expressing the sense of the House that a month should be designated as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month" (rollcall 110), and H.R. 1368, "Norman Shumway Post Office Building" Designation Act (rollcall vote 111). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

## THE PENSION BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2003*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today my good friend from Vermont, the Honorable BERNIE SANDERS, in cosponsoring his bi-partisan legislation to protect the pension benefits of older employees. Over 100 members of the House are original co-sponsors of this important bill.

I am also very pleased that this bill enjoys the support of the AFL-CIO, the AARP, the Communication Workers of America, the Pension Rights Center, and other organizations as well as individual employees throughout the country impacted by what are known in the pension world as "cash balance plan conversions." These groups and individuals have been important leaders in this very difficult but important fight.

Millions of white-collar employees and other workers in America will benefit from our bill. Our bill is about fairness. Our bill says that if a company with a traditional defined benefit plan switches—in mid-stream—to a cash balance plan that costs that company less, an older employee has the right to choose to be in whichever of the two plans is better for him or her. We say, let the employee choose.

As you know, the reason that employers can save hundreds of millions of dollars by switching to the increasingly popular cash balance plans is because they will pay their employees less in benefits.

We are not proposing that all employers must have a traditional defined benefit plan for all employees. We are not saying that, nor

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